

ORATORY is steadily on the increase in the House, and as a result business is very dull there, and steadily waning. Why would it not be well for the lawmakers to take a recess of a fortnight, and give the committees a chance to resuscitate the bills which lie buried beyond sight, memory and hearing. If a recess is decided upon, it should come at once, in order to let the lawyers do a little work before the July term closes.

THE most important matter discussed in the House Tuesday was the resolution to ask the Supreme Court to give its opinion on certain matters of law. The questions to be referred are, in a nutshell, whether any constitutional difficulties exist in the way of extending the licensing system, and whether it would be constitutional to give any officer an absolute discretion to refuse licenses. The resolution emanated from the committee to which the Anti-Asiatic petition was referred, and the object is to test in advance the constitutionality of certain Anti-Chinese legislation.

THE answer of the Minister of Finance to the questions put to him with regard to the Passport System show that only an exceedingly small number are ever stopped for debt, the number in the last two years, 57, being about one per cent. only of the total number issued, we believe. It seems an imposition on the debt-paying portion of the public to compel them all to invest in passports because it is wholesome for a few sinners to be compelled to do so. The system was probably not originally devised to prevent debtors from absconding, and we submit that its utility for that purpose is not sufficient reason for the retention of an antiquated and burdensome arrangement, which smacks more of autocratic government than of the spirit of free institutions.

The passport bore is not, however, a consideration, in comparison with the Hospital Tax Swindle. It is bad enough to tax travellers for coming here in any case, but to inveigle them out of their money on the specious pretence that it is for the benefit of the Hospital, leaving them of course to infer that if they are strangers and sick they will be taken in themselves, is an unwarrantable hoax and fraud. The truth is that there are reasonable and proper ways of raising money by taxation, and there are oppressive and absurd ways. This, we submit, is one of the latter, and the sooner it is done away with, the better.

IT APPEARS that the Seventh Day Adventists are not satisfied with the unceremonious manner in which their Bill was killed in the Legislature, and they propose to introduce another which will bring about in a slightly different way the same object as the first. It may as well be said at once that this is not a question of religious toleration. If it were we should advocate giving the Adventists all they claim as a matter of course. If any one is foolish enough to make keeping Saturday holy instead of Sunday a matter of conscience, it is nobody's business but his own. He has a perfect right to his views. At the same time he must naturally expect that his eccentric convictions will entail upon him a certain amount of inconvenience. No one will hinder him from resting on Saturday if he wishes to, and surely he does not consider himself morally bound to work on Sunday. Let him take the enforced rest of the present Sabbath as a little bit of suffering for conscience' sake. It will fortify his faith. It is hardly reasonable to expect the country to modify its civil laws and observances in order to obviate the inconveniences in which somebody's religious views might otherwise involve him. The Government has no right to legislate in the interests of any sect whatever, be they Second Adventists or Mormons, or good old orthodox Presbyterians. What the Second Adventists are asking for is legislation in the interests of their body. The Government is interested in the Sabbath purely as a social convenience, it regards, or should regard the day in its civil aspect entirely, and laws intended to protect the sanctity of the Sabbath or in any way to enforce its observance as a religious ceremonial, are improper. When, therefore, the new bill comes before the House, what they have to consider is simply whether Sunday, as a civil day of rest, is worth protecting against the marauding incursions of petty hands of misguided religionists.

THE House proceeded Wednesday with consideration of the Appropriation Bill, with which they are making on the whole very creditable progress. The item for a carriage road up Punchbowl seems to be destined to make a good deal of trouble, and it has been referred to a committee. A good deal of the resistance with which the item meets is due to a very partial view of the reasons which can be urged for it. The road is not advocated merely because it will be a luxury for the inhabitants of Honolulu. That certainly is a strong inducement, for it will be a very great luxury. But another good reason for the road is the fact simply that it will add very extensively to the attractions of this city

to tourists from abroad. So far as we are aware, in this city of magnificent opportunities, such a thing as a pleasure drive can hardly be said to exist. The carriage road up Punchbowl will create such a drive—a drive, the beauty and interest of which will be out of all proportion to the cost. The proposition to reduce to \$5,000, and make a road for horseback riders only, is an absurd one. That class can get up Punchbowl now. The item should be passed as it stands in the bill, or rejected altogether. If the Legislature will all adjourn to the top of Punchbowl some fine, clear evening about sunset, they will pass the item, we believe, without a dissenting vote. 'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished—and we believe it will pay in the end.

A great many expenditures of the above sort would naturally be undertaken by a municipal Government, if we had one, but that useful public improvement does not seem to be forthcoming this session, and we do not want to wait for the Punchbowl road. We would by no means be understood to imply that the expenditure is not a proper one for the general Government, for the beautifying of the capital city is something in which the whole country has an interest, but we do think the citizens of Honolulu would very gladly undertake it if they were properly organized. A municipal government is such a very dangerous affair—it is capable of being such a thorough curse as well as blessing, that it is no miracle no one finds the courage to attack and solve the problem for us. Can there be a better time than the present when the respectable personnel of the Legislature furnishes some guarantee that a municipal government organized now might prove of the right sort.

ONE of the important bills before the Legislature is that introduced by Mr. Waterhouse to "Prevent the Issue of Commercial Paper as a Circulating Medium." It was placed in the hands of the Committee on Finance early in the session, and no doubt received careful consideration from them. The report was made on the 17th, and states that conference was had with leading business men. It can hardly be urged that the committee acted hurriedly, for the bill was in their hands several weeks. Among others, they consulted Mr. Irwin of the banking house of Claus Spreckels & Company, and members of the bank of Bishop & Company. Plantation agencies also had a hearing, and the views of the business community were pretty well expressed to and understood by the committee. The opinion editorially expressed by the Bulletin, that "the real intent of the bill, the introducer, and the committee, is aimed at the banking house of Spreckels & Company, and the intent is to stop the circulation of that firm's bank notes," apparently has no foundation in fact. It is an ugly fling, in keeping with that paper's determined fault-finding since the success of the reform movement.

The whole report of the committee bears the marks of careful consideration and shows no sign of the "ad hominem" argument too much in vogue here. "Measures, not men," should be our motto and our practice. The whole course of legislation of the present Legislature appears to be founded upon that motto, and there is nothing to indicate that this bill will not be considered in the same spirit. It is also just to Mr. Irwin to say that the fault-finding writer of the Bulletin was probably not inspired by him.

The report of the committee touches upon an important matter which has perhaps not received sufficient consideration. This is, that the Legislature of 1886, as well as former Assemblies, have declared the intent of the country as against unlimited silver. The silver coinage Act has been repealed; the issue of silver certificates by the Government has been restricted to ten dollar notes; the payment of debts in silver has been restricted to ten dollars, and last, but not least, the proposed celebrated bank charter asked for some years ago by Spreckels and others, was almost unanimously rejected by the Legislature. The issue of bank notes is therefore clearly illegal at the present time, and the issue of certificates of deposit by the banks or others, which are payable to bearer or order, are simply evasions of the law. This is not as it should be, and the intent of the bill is to prevent this, as well as the practical creation and issue of any other circulating medium than that authorized by law. It is doubtful whether the country is materially benefited by the large use of plantation drafts. It would be much better if the country could be supplied with a plenty of gold and silver. But this bill will not, as alleged, prevent the free use of negotiable paper. That stands upon a footing of its own, and is not covered or intended to be covered by the proposed legislation.

Boating and Dancing.
A social society has been formed within the membership of the Myrtle Boat Club and bearing the name of that organization. Friday evening a boating and dancing party was given as the initial entertainment of the society. The steam launch and other boats of the Club were employed for a delightful moonlight excursion, and on returning to the club house the congenial party of young ladies and gentlemen danced a programme in the elegant hall. Heard from this office through the telephone, the music was very charming.

CORRESPONDENCE.
We do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements made, or opinions expressed by our correspondents.

Letter from Kohala.
MR. EDITOR: Is it not time that the police authorities turned their attention to the enforcement of the laws that prohibit fishing with giant powder? Case after case occurs of men losing their hands in this business, like the one that happened last week, and they continue to ply their trade with the remaining hand, thus showing that the loss of one hand is not a sufficient lesson for them; no arrest of these cases has ever been made, and there are now not less than six or eight such in this district.

It would seem sometimes that the more open and bold a violation of the law, the less liable it is to be noticed by those whose province it is to see that the laws are executed. For instance, during the 4th of July races, a tent was erected to the rear of the track, where 'twas said that liquors were dispensed, which showed some of its effects in the latter part of the day, and that the outfit belonged to the saloon. Now, no one likes to introduce an element of discord on a day of jollification, and it is possible, although not probable, all things considered, that the foregoing information was incorrect. But law-abiding citizens do not like to see the law trampled under foot, and if law is not made to be enforced, to what purpose was it made, and why does it exist?

The majority of the better class of residents in these islands are adapted to the great movement for reform, but that reform will be only a failure in the end if its supporters allow flagrant violations of the law to pass unheeded, because to do otherwise would be disagreeable; and do not show that they "mean business" right straight through.

Your correspondent agrees with those who think the new election bill better be passed and tried. Good government has nothing to fear from a strictly honest vote, uninfluenced by anything but moral forces. And if on trial it should prove to be not in all points adapted to the needs of this country and its peculiarly mixed population, it had better be amended after trial, than only to be tried after being shown of all its best points. I apprehend that the greatest difficulty to be encountered, in the attempt to elect by the proposed law, will not arise from any unfitness of the law itself, but from the ignorance of a great number of the voters, who will not know how to use the ballots so as to have them indicate their choice of the several names that may be printed thereon.

I think Hon. H. S. Townsend struck the right chord, in his 4th of July oration, when he alluded to the origin of the revolutionary war, and pointed out that those engaged in the revolt were Englishmen, standing up for an Englishman's boasted ideas of sound principles and personal rights. Englishmen are apt to lose sight of this fact when they harbor their lingering resentment of "Americans" for getting the better of them in that war, and forget that the victors were only other Englishmen fighting for principles that they (the vanquished) themselves were proud to boast of as being peculiarly English. Is this not so?

On the other hand, what American, while delighting to crow over the success of his forefathers in that struggle for independence, is not glad to claim an English origin?

A Voice From the Tombs.
MR. EDITOR:—"Why is it," a stranger asked after a short acquaintance with these Islands, "there seems to be so many young men outcasts socially here, and fellows, too, that would shine in society anywhere?"

Is it because of the teachings of the good old missionary fathers (and mothers, too, God bless them!) whose policy had of necessity to be narrowed to meet the needs of the people then just emerging from barbarism, and to whom the idea of segregation of the good from the bad was rigidly taught? It would seem so. But is this a safe policy to pursue in the face of the present advanced civilization? Is the spirit of the teaching and life of the Divine Man of Galilee so far overclouded that we still are "He is a companion of publicans and sinners; away with him!" Does not that teaching show that same Divinity mixing with just that class, living among them, saving them?

Here in Hawaii a young man falls—at once he is ostracized. "What!" our Christian mamas say (and this is a favorite cry)—"expose our girls to such a vampire!" He is cut; feels the cold shoulder—mayhap his sensitive nature has already rebelled against his sin—but the slight has been felt and makes him turn with less repugnance to his error and recklessly seek again companions that are not helpful, that in time grow more congenial and only lead down, down, down.

This, no idle fable, but the sad experience of more than one noble young fellow who has bitter regrets that these beautiful Islands ever became his home even temporarily. In Honolulu something has been done in a spasmodic, semi-public way, but it is not the way to reach those who really would be helped, who yearn for human sympathy, not the manufactured article so often doled out by the yard. In the smaller towns away from Honolulu even this is wanting—there it must be "goody-goody" or nobody (I speak from personal experience and observation), and there, more particularly, are bright young fellows virtually alone and thrown upon their own resources. This is not right, and one questions the virtue of the teaching or customs that allow it.

What can we do? Make them feel that charity is able and willing to lend them a helping hand—not, lend—give, in the true sense of giving; that, with true Divinity, the sinner is not despised—rather, the sin. Then, I promise you, strangers will have less cause for remarking upon the queer state of affairs socially here.

that effect has been introduced, I hope that in the few days left to introduce bills, some member of the House (of those that made such promises) will spare a little time and prepare such bill, so as to not break his promise.

Examinations at Lahainaluna.

MR. EDITOR: On Wednesday morning, the 11th inst., the closing examination of the Lahainaluna Seminary began. Many of the boys' parents, and all the people of Lahaina who are interested in educational matters were present, anxious to witness the performances of the young men.

The exercises opened with spelling by the sophomore and freshmen classes. The work was performed on the blackboard, each boy being so placed that it was impossible for him to scrutinize any other boy's work. About 100 words were given, and but two boys misspelled any of them. The spelling was followed by history by the middle class, which was very good indeed, and reflects great credit upon Mr. F. W. Hardy, the teacher in history. After the history class came grammar by the sophomore class, and then grammar again by the seniors and juniors, both classes performing very creditably. An intermission of one hour was then taken, during which time other visitors were lunched by Mr. Baldwin and the other teachers. The afternoon exercises opened with the algebra class, followed by trigonometry and surveying, and closing at 4 p. m. with arithmetic by the sophomores. The work was performed in a most excellent manner, and all there were astonished at the rapidity with which the boys solved the examples.

On Thursday, the 12th, geography, history, physiology, geometry, algebra, grammar and arithmetic were treated with like success. The examples in geometry were given to the pupils by Mr. H. G. Treadway, Deputy Sheriff of Maui. Each boy was given two examples, and they were all demonstrated correctly from original figures drawn by the boys. The examinations closed on Friday, 13th, with rhetorical exercises at the Wainane Church, Lahaina, as follows:

Prayer.
Father, Take My Hand
We Must Fight. Ephraim M. Kalama
The Song of the Railroad
Robert H. Baker
Singing. Daylight is Breaking
The Cold Water Man. Enos A. Fortson
Hawaii-nee. Abbe J. Kaubaho
Singing. School Bells
Somebody's Darling
Edward N. Nahaoleleua
The Flower of Liberty. Joel Nakalele
Singing. O, Ye Tears
The Blue and the Gray

The Battle of the Kegs. Hakalau Oana
Singing. Minnie Brown
Aaron Burr's Wooing. Charles K. Farden
Wreck of the Hesperus
William E. Saffery
Singing. Then We'll Sing
A Psalm of Life. John Taylor
Prize Fight. George M. Kakaia
Singing. Sliding Down Hill
The Inquiry. Thomas K. Clark
The Constitution. David Kapaku
Singing. Village Bells
Our Country. Kamaka Kahaleole
Our Duty to Our Country
D. Zakia Nahiela
Singing. Beautiful Spring

An address was delivered by His Excellency Governor R. H. Baker, followed by Judge Kahaulehi and the Hon. John Kalua. Diplomats were given to six of the young men by the Principal, Mr. Jno. A. Moore, who, in conclusion, addressed the boys, thanking them for the attention they had given to their studies during the term, and giving them some wholesome advice as regards their future behavior. Taken as a whole, the performance was a great success, and the teachers must feel fully repaid for all the labor and care bestowed upon the pupils during the last nine months.

The spelling, algebra, geometry, surveying and arithmetic deserve especial mention. Mr. D. D. Baldwin, under whom the boys have studied trigonometry and surveying, may well feel proud of their pupils, and need have no fear of their being surpassed by any other surveying class in this Kingdom who have had like opportunities.

Mr. F. W. Hardy, the teacher of algebra and history, is also a subject for congratulation. In spite of his ill-health he has made the boys to understand their business, and their performance on the 11th and 12th insts. is a feather in his cap.

Too much cannot be said in praise of Mr. Jno. A. Moore. Since his appointment to the Principalship of Lahainaluna he has worked early and late. Soon after the commencement of the term he introduced a new departure, by establishing a night class, whereby the boys could have the advantage of two hours' extra teaching each day. Not content with thus curtailing his own time, he has willingly given up his Saturday to the instruction of the lower grade English teachers throughout the district, giving them the benefit of his life-long experience in the matter of teaching.

The pupils of Lahainaluna and their parents, the teachers of Lahaina district, and in fact the whole educational interest of the country are indebted to Mr. Moore for the great good work that he is performing.

Mr. Moore goes to Honolulu to-night to take the place of Mr. Scott in the Fort-street School, during that gentleman's absence in California.

something themselves for the Christianization of their countrymen in these islands. They raised a sum of money sufficient to send Mr. Miyama to Honolulu. With Mr. F. W. Damon he made a tour among the other islands, arousing deep interest wherever he went. Obligated to return to San Francisco, he received an urgent invitation to come back, even if he could spend but a short time here. In complying with that invitation from his own people, Mr. Irwin offering to pay all expenses for a six months' visit, Mr. Miyama returned to the islands. A deeper interest in Christian hopes and duties has been the result. While not confined to the Consulate and its attaches and inmates, but reaching all the classes of Japanese, the incidents of the work have been most satisfactory in connection with the gradual conversion of every person belonging to the Consulate without a single exception. Rev. Mr. Harris, of the Japanese Mission in San Francisco, has come to Honolulu specially to make arrangements for the further organization of this mission to the Japanese, begun by the Japanese, and to be carried on by Japanese workers here.

The Hamakua Temperance Society.

MR. EDITOR: The 19th of June, 1888, spent at Paunah, Hamakua, Hawaii, will be remembered with pleasure by those who participated in its festivities. The birthday of the temperance society it was my privilege to form. For several weeks earnest pleas had reached me from special committees and private individuals to be present on that occasion, offering to pay my expenses and send an escort to conduct me thither. After a rough voyage and a few stormy days, the morning of June 19th broke clearer than we feared. A kind Providence kept the impending rain at bay. By 11 o'clock the church was filled, the people having gathered from Laupahoehoe, 16 miles south, and Waimanu, as far north. The church, awa-puhi (the fragrant ginger) and lovely flowers. Back of the pulpit was worked "Aloha," bordered on each side by "Welcome." A decorated arch of bamboo plants was over the speakers. At the further end of the church was "Aloha Onkou." Fragrant leaves and bright flowers were interwoven and festooned from the four corners of the church, meeting in a center of beauty overhead. Our pathway to the church was spread with the favorite palapa-ae and the sweet ginger, as were the steps and floor of the pulpit; and so outside and inside Nature's welcomes peeped from each nook and corner, and "Aloha Nui" beamed from every face. Bonnie blue ribbons were worn by all; by many who had nobly resisted temptation, and had come off victorious.

At my left presided Judge Mian, the President of the Society. At a signal from him, the audience rose, salams were interchanged, God's blessing was invoked, and the report of the delegate to the Honolulu Annual Temperance Convention held, after which, in rich, clear tones, sang Mrs. Haena, the wife of the Secretary.

The orator of the day was Mr. Charles Williams, a half white gentleman, educated at Punahou, under Prof. W. D. Alexander. In an evil hour he became a victim to strong drink; but through the interposition of Mr. R. A. Lyman, Treasurer of the Society, he had been able to overcome. His utterances, as he stood before us that day, elicited close attention. The President's annual report states that he established at Kaula a branch society, numbering 47 members. At Paailo also a society numbering 27, at Waimanu a society numbering 49.

Mr. J. M. Horner of Kakaia, interpreted by Mr. Williams, followed in words that thrilled the audience. He led us on to victory through license, high license, local option, until he reached the highest round in the ladder—Prohibition. When he drove the nail in the lid of the encased demon of strong drink, it created a round of applause. As for me, no words could express my joy in referring to one year ago, and to the present occasion. The work had been carried on with a degree of faithfulness and success that was truly gratifying. It was an unspeakable joy to look into faces, and hear voices of those who hailed me as their "makua."

The exercises were closed by singing "My Country 'tis of Thee," we adjourned to the house of my hostess queen, Mrs. R. A. Lyman. The long front veranda, commanding a magnificent view of mountain, slope and ocean, was spread with greenery, and a choice variety of viands. Haole and Hawaiians did the feast justice. There was a banquet hall for the little ones, and the parlors of the Lyman house were thronged with merry guests. Good-lyes and alohas were said, and each departed, grateful and happy over this birthday of the one year old Society of Hamakua; child of our love, God bless and keep thee ever!

MARY E. GREEN.

The Hamakua Telephone.

The Hamakua people after many fruitless efforts have at last succeeded in getting the Hamakua end of the telephone in their own hands. The Hilo T. & T. Co. now come as far as Ooaka, and the Hamakua Co. from Ooaka to Kawaiho. The Hamakua stockholders held their first meeting to-day, and appointed their officers, and will immediately apply for a charter of incorporation. Several new shares of stock were taken up and a lot of telephones were ordered in. Every one seems to have taken a lively interest in the new Company, and from all appearances it will be what it never was, and never would be, a satisfactory and a paying line. In a short time it will probably be connected with Kohala. May the new Company have every success.

Subscribers.

Honokaa, July 11.

A Suggestion to Legislators.

MR. EDITOR:—In Belgium the electoral cell system is working for more than ten years to the satisfaction of all. In order to give blind, crippled, or illiterate electors absolute freedom in casting their votes, the law allows them to be accompanied in the cell by either an inspector sworn in, let to vote scrupulously as directed, 2nd, to keep the vote absolutely secret; or (ad libitum) by a close relation (father, son, brother, or brother-in-law) whether elector or not.

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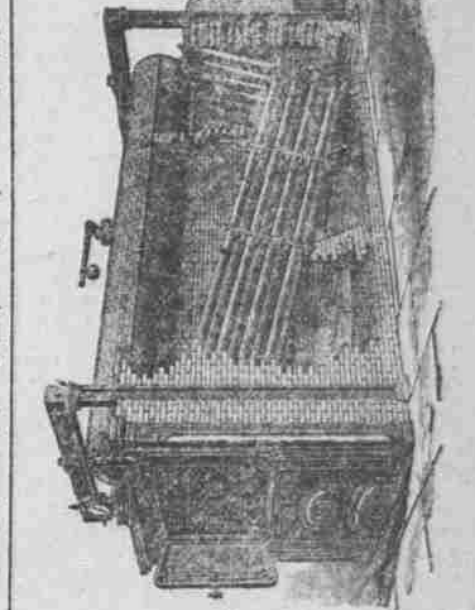
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